

# **WOODWORK REMOVAL DEVICE**

## **CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS, IF ANY**

Not applicable.

## **STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT**

Not applicable.

## **REFERENCE TO A MICROFICHE APPENDIX, IF ANY**

Not applicable.

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

### **1. Field of the Invention.**

The present invention is a device for removing woodwork and trim from the interior or exterior of buildings.

### **2. Background information.**

This invention applies to removing woodwork and trim from the interior or exterior of buildings with minimal or no damage to the woodwork or to the wall from which it is removed.

Trades people, such as carpenters, electricians, window and door replacement contractors, telephone and cable TV installers, and carpet installers, frequently find it necessary to remove woodwork or trim in the course of their work. Often, especially in older homes, this woodwork is brittle and fastened with a surprising number of larger-than-necessary nails. Common tools for this job are putty knives and pry bars. Because these tools present hard steel edges and small surface areas to the wall and the woodwork, damage such as gouging, cracking, or scratching is likely. Time and

money are wasted, and the goodwill of the building owner and the trades person is sometimes strained while the damage is repaired. Historic homes and buildings may have custom or out-of-production  
woodwork which is no longer available should a section of it be destroyed when being removed.  
Special knives can be made to duplicate the molding, but only at significant cost. Utility installation,  
5 building, or remodeling costs can be lessened significantly, and materials saved, if woodwork can be  
reused, or if salvaged trim can be used in place of new.

Applicant has invented a woodwork removal device that minimizes or eliminates damage to  
the woodwork and to the wall from which it is removed. It also provides a less tedious and faster  
method than using putty knives and pry bars for this task. The device acts on both the wall and the  
10 woodwork with a relatively large surface area, greatly decreasing the chance of damage. This allows  
the trim to be reinstalled or salvaged for use in other projects. Time and materials are saved, and  
related repair, building, or remodeling costs are lessened.

### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The invention is a device for removing woodwork and trim from the interior or exterior of  
15 buildings. The device comprises a planar, "T" shaped body member which tapers to an edge at the  
bottom of its vertical wall. At the top of the wall, a horizontal protrusion extends to act as a striking  
surface, and to locate a handle which may be pinned on either side of the striking surface for left or  
right-hand use. The body member is pocketed to accept a lifter plate member shaped to match the  
shape of the vertical wall. The lifter plate member mounts on pins and is spring loaded so that it  
20 normally rests in the pocket of the body member. A stop structure is provided to protect the lifter  
plate pins and springs, should the device be driven too deeply behind the woodwork to be removed.

An "L" shaped bar member fits into another pocket of the body member which is behind the lifter plate member. The device functions as follows. The body member is placed against the wall with its hard edge against the woodwork to be removed. The device is then driven between the wall and the woodwork. Next, the "L" shaped bar member is tapped into the bar pocket of the body member  
5 behind the lifter plate member. When the bar member is pivoted, the lifter plate member is moved away from the body member, and the woodwork is moved away from the wall and loosened. If the woodwork is sufficiently loosened, it may then be removed. If not, a shim, such as a block of wood, is placed behind the loosened woodwork, and the bar member pivoted back so that the lifter plate member is retracted. The device is then advanced forward down the length of the woodwork, and the  
10 bar member is again pivoted. This is repeated until the woodwork is loosened sufficiently to be removed.

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the device for removal of woodwork or trim from a wall includes a planar tool body member having a top portion, a center portion, and a bottom portion. The bottom portion tapers to a hard edge, the center portion includes, in register, a lever  
15 pocket and a lifter plate pocket, and the top portion includes a striking surface extending perpendicularly from one side of the planar tool body member. The striking surface includes an aperture accessing the lever pocket and the lifter plate pocket. A planar lifter plate member is biasedly mounted against the lifter plate pocket of the tool body member. An angled, lever bar member having a cross section greater in width than in thickness is tapered at one end to facilitate  
20 insertion of the tapered end into the tool body member lever pocket via the aperture in the striking surface.

In operation, the planar tool body member is driven between a wall and a trim piece secured to the wall. The angled, lever bar member is inserted into the lever pocket and pivoted at one edge to force the lifter plate member away from the lifter plate pocket of the planar tool body member, thereby separating the trim piece from the wall.

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of the invention showing the body, lifter plate, handle, pins, striking surface, lever bar, and other features.

FIG. 2 is an exploded perspective view of the invention showing the body, lifter plate, springs, handle, pins, striking surface, lever bar, and other features.

FIG. 3 is a side view of the invention in position to be driven between the wall and the

FIG. 4 is a side view of the invention in position after being driven between the wall and the woodwork to be removed, with the lever bar positioned for insertion into the lever bar pocket behind the lifter plate.

FIG. 5 is a side view of the invention in place between the wall and the woodwork, with the lever bar inserted into the lever bar pocket behind the lifter plate.

FIG. 6 is a side view of the invention in place between the wall and the woodwork, with the inserted lever bar rotated so that the lifter plate is moved away from the body, and the woodwork is moved away from the wall.

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of the invention in place between the wall and the woodwork, with the lever bar inserted into the lever bar pocket behind the lifter plate.

FIG. 8 is a perspective view of the invention in place between the wall and the woodwork with the inserted lever bar rotated so that the lifter plate is moved away from the body and the woodwork is moved away from the wall.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS

### 5 *Nomenclature*

- |    |    |   |
|----|----|---|
|    | 1  | Planar Tool Body Member                                     |
|    | 2  | Lifter Plate Member   |
|    | 3  | Lifter Plate Pin Member                                     |
|    | 4  | Lifter Plate Pin Member Hole                                |
| 10 | 5  | Spring Member   |
|    | 6  | Handle Member   |
|    | 7  | Handle Pin Member   |
|    | 8  | Handle Pin Member Hole                                      |
|    | 9  | Lever Bar Member  |
| 15 | 10 | Hard Edge   |
|    | 11 | Striking Surface  |
|    | 12 | Access Aperture   |
|    | 13 | Lifter Plate Pocket   |
|    | 14 | Lever Bar Pocket  |
| 20 | 15 | Stop Structure Protecting the Lifter Plate Pins and Springs |
|    | 16 | Section of Woodwork or Trim                                 |
|    | 17 | Wall  |

## ***Construction***

Although the disclosure hereof is detailed and exact to enable those skilled in the art to practice the invention, the physical embodiments herein disclosed merely exemplify the invention, which may be embodied in other specific structure. The scope of the invention is defined in the claims  
5 appended hereto.

The invention is an assembly for removal of woodwork or trim from the wall of a building. Referring now to Figures 1 and 2, several views of the assembly are shown. The assembly includes a tool body member 1 having a top portion, a center portion and a bottom portion. The bottom portion tapers gradually to a hard edge 10 at its lowest point, and the top portion features a  
10 perpendicular protrusion which functions as a striking surface 11. This striking surface 11 features an access aperture or cutout area 12 for the insertion of the lever bar member 9. The lever bar member 9 is "L" shaped with a cross-section greater in width than in thickness, and with one or both legs being tapered at the end to ease insertion into the lever bar pocket 14 provided for the lever bar member 9. The striking surface 11 of the body member 1 also features holes 8 which accept a handle  
15 pin member 7 to locate a handle member 6 on either side of the body member 1 for left-handed or right-handed use. If working space is limited, the handle member 6 may be removed from the body member 1 entirely. The handle pin member 7 is secured in place by a cotter pin, circlip, or other feature. Incorporated into the body member 1 is a lifter plate pocket 13, which accepts a lifter plate member 2 shaped to fit into it. Also incorporated into the body member 1 is a lever bar pocket 14,  
20 which accepts a lever bar member 9 shaped to fit into it. The pockets 13, 14 are arranged in register, and the lifter plate pocket 13 has a surface area greater than the surface area of the lever bar pocket 14. The lever bar pocket 14 is deeper than the lifter plate pocket 13 so that the lever bar member 9,

when inserted, is behind the lifter plate member 2. The lifter plate member 2 is held movably in the lifter plate pocket 13 by lifter plate pin members 3, which are located by holes 4 in the body member 1 and in a stop structure 15 provided to protect the lifter plate pin members 3 and spring members 5 as the device is driven between a wall 17 and a trim piece 16. The lifter plate pin members 3 capture spring members 5, which hold the lifter plate member 2 against the base of the lifter plate pocket 13. The lifter plate pin members 3 extend from the tool body member 1 adjacent and parallel the top portion striking surface 11. The lifter plate pin members 3 are secured in place by cotter pins, circlips, or other features. Preferably, the tool body member 1, the lifter plate member 2 and the lever bar member 9 are fabricated from a metallic material, such as a steel alloy or cast aluminum, for strength and durability.

Referring now to Figures 3-6, the functioning of the device is illustrated. As shown in Figure 3, first the body member 1 is held to the wall 17 with the hard edge 10 of the device against the woodwork 16 to be removed. The device is then driven between the wall 17 and the woodwork 16 by striking the striking surface 11 with a hammer, as shown in Figure 4. With the device wedged between the wall 17 and the woodwork 16 to be removed, the lever bar member 9 is tapped into the lever bar pocket 14 of the body member 1, as illustrated in Figure 5. The lever bar member 9 is then pivoted on one edge by moving the horizontal leg of the lever bar member 9 toward the wall 17, so that the vertical leg of the lever bar member 9 overcomes the spring members 5 and wedges the lifter plate member 2 away from the body member 1. This action, in turn, wedges the woodwork 16 away from the wall 17, as shown in Figure 6. The lever bar member 9 is then pivoted back to its initial position, so that the lifter plate member 2 moves back into the lifter plate pocket 13 of the body member 1. The device is then advanced along the length of the woodwork 16 to be removed, and

the lever bar member 9 actuated as above, until the woodwork 16 is free of the wall 17, or acceptably loosened. Front perspective views of the device, the wall 17 and the woodwork 16 of Figures 5 and 6 are shown in Figures 7 and 8.

5 While the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.